Ottawa metro

LIFE
SWEDISH INVASION

Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015

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Hemp on the Hill

4/20 COVERAGE IN OTTAWA NEWS

Through the cold rain, a marijuana user burns a joint near the Centennial Flame during this year's 4/20 rally at Parliament Hill. ANDRZEJ TERRENCE/FOR METRO

Patio fees still too expensive

CITY HALL

Five-cent drop is not enough, local business owners say

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Restaurant and bar owners in Ottawa will still be paying among the highest patio fees in the country — even under a planned city-wide discount.

On Monday, the transportation committee approved a five-cent discount for outdoor patios. That would bring the rates down to $1.18 per square metre from $1.23. It's still subject to council approval. Some business owners and Business Improvement Area representatives say the fees are still too high.

Jasna Jennings, executive director of the ByWard Market BIA, said patio fees are "just another strain" on small businesses.

Meanwhile, Lori Mellor, who heads the Preston Street BIA, said the $1.18 fee is acceptable for this year, but asked the committee to reconsider lowering patio fees next year to be more in line with cities across Canada.

Apart from initial fees, cities elsewhere in Ontario, such as Hamilton and Windsor, do not charge a square-metre rate. Kingston charges $0.17 to $0.34, depending on location.

Vancouver charges less than Ottawa per square metre ($0.74), but for a longer period (a full year, as opposed to the capital's 169 days).

Toronto is still reviewing its patio fees, but last year's rates ranged from five cents to 20 cents per square metre.

Last year, the City of Ottawa reduced patio fees by 10 per cent. Even with this reduction, a staff report says the city's revenues were still within target.

This year's patio encroachment fees are expected to generate about $600,000 in revenue.

Although the rainy Monday was not a day to sip drinks on a patio, a handful of Elgin Street business owners have reason to clink their glasses.

The transportation committee voted to make a few patios permanent summertime fixtures on Elgin Street.

In 2013, the city launched a patio pilot project for Elgin Street that allowed patios for Johnny Farina, Hooley's Pub, Town, and the Standard. Woody's Elgin Street Urban Pub and Fresco Bistro Italiano had conditional approval on their patios since 2012. Sir John A. Pub has had approval since 1992.

A Hooley's Pub employee said the restaurant would not reopen its patio due to the high fees.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

A sweater was donated to the Edmonton Zoo's elephant, but she never got it.

4/20 rally a real trip

PARLIAMENT HILL

Hundreds gather in name of marijuana legalization

Steve Collins
Metro | Ottawa

A crowd rallies for the legalization of marijuana in front of Parliament Hill on Monday.
ANDRZEJ TERRENCE/FOR METRO

Hundreds of demonstrators braved buzz-killing wet weather Monday to light up at the annual 4/20 marijuana legalization rally on Parliament Hill.

"This is a global day of civil disobedience in defiance of bad laws," said organizer Craig Jones, executive director of the National Organization of the Reform of Marijuana Laws in Canada (NORML). "People are standing out in front of legislative buildings blowing a raspberry at the powers that be for continuing the big lie about cannabis."

For participants like Craig Paquette, 4/20 is also a big social event.

"I just like that as a community we come out and get stoned as a team," he said. "We don't ruin anything. We just come out and smoke, get high as f-- and then go home."

The rally's MC, Rick Kaulbars, a.k.a. Captain Zig Zag, exhorted the crowd to make sure MPs heard them loud and clear on ending the prohibition on marijuana.

"If we get a legalization government, we can't let them forget their promises," he told them. "Hold them to account. Demand change. Find out who your MP is and shake their telephone — not literally."

Kaulbars kept the crowd going with pep talks and one-liners until the traditional countdown and blaze-up at precisely 4:20 p.m.

"Why are we having a countdown anyway? You guys have been smoking since I got here," he cracked. "I realize it's a ritual and we should cherish the ritual, but I saw a guy with a three-foot bong on the bus!"

After his address, Kaulbars reflected on the irony that marijuana has been legalized in U.S. states like Colorado before Canada.

"Canada, which sort of fancies itself at the forefront of social change, is for once looking over the fence at their neighbours going, 'They got there first! They got there first and we're jealous!'"

While he urged the crowd to get involved, he stopped short of endorsing any political party.

"What I do say, though, is that they have to educate themselves and become aware of the platforms, to get in touch with their MPs and re-engage with democracy as it should be."

"There's no question that the tide is turning. The days of cannabis prohibition are counting down."
Craig Jones, NORML Canada

OPINION

On the street

We asked 4/20 demonstrators how important marijuana legalization is to the way they'll vote in the next election.

"I would definitely vote for legalization, but I'd want to make

sure that it's taxed right and not overly taxed. Because then it'd just be stupid — I'd just go to the dealer anyway."
Craig Paquette

"(Legalization) is just one of those easy no-brainer issues that we should solve

quickly.... The way I see it, you fix one simple problem, it lets you fix all the bigger problems."
Marc-Andre Seguin

"It's not the most important issue. It's an important issue, obviously — but I don't think people should go

vote for a party just because they heard they're going to legalize marijuana, because your vote's kind of childish after that. You don't know really know anything about politics except that party's for marijuana.
Mathieu Durand

"I'm not old enough

to vote either way, but I think they should legalize marijuana.
Jade Elizabeth

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SEARCH

Police divers find body in Ottawa River

Police in West Quebec pulled a body from the Ottawa River on Monday afternoon.

Divers with Sûreté du Québec found the body near the Resolute Forest Products mill in the Gatineau district at around 4:30 p.m.

Jean-Paul Lemay, a spokesman with Gatineau police, said it's still too early to say whether the body is that of a 14-year-old boy who went missing on April 7, but it was found in that general area.

The police had called off the days-long search that same week, but Lemay said the divers returned to the scene on Monday because the mill is shutting down its turbines for repair.

Police sent the body to hospital, where it will be identified.

A 16-year-old boy also fell into the Ottawa River that day, but was rescued by firefighters.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

PESTICIDES

School still closed over health concerns

An Ottawa elementary school will remain closed Tuesday after students and staff fell ill from an unauthorized pesticide used last week.

Although Ottawa Public Health and the Ministry of Labour cleared the site for public use, Norah Marsh, associate director of education for the school board, said concerns resurfaced.

Charles H. Hulse Public School was scheduled to open Tuesday, but Marsh said the fumes' return is delaying the process. The school was closed last Thursday after students and staff began complaining about nausea, itching and watery eyes. The cause was determined to be a pesticide used to kill cockroaches in the building.

"We did not approve the use of the pesticide, but we will be doing a full investigation into what has occurred here," said Marsh.

She added that the board will be notifying the community as to the status of the school as the week goes on.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

> **We did not approve the use of the pesticide, but we will be doing a full investigation into what has occurred here.**
> Norah Marsh

IN BRIEF

New identity scam targeting Ottawa residents

Ottawa police are warning residents about a new identity-theft scam.

Police said victims are targeted by mail, receiving a letter that demands outstanding bill payments from a company registered to the victim's home address.

The letter is meant to trick victims into believing their identity has been stolen.

After calling the provided contact number and supplying an identification number on the letter, victims are asked to provide an email address so that a form can be emailed to them.

The form asks for personal details, including date of birth, social insurance number, photocopies of ID and driver's licence numbers: all information that can be used by the scammer to commit real identity theft.

The bottom of the form typically states, 'Do Not Send Affidavit to the FTC or any other Government Agency.'

"The Ottawa police want to warn the public about providing personal information to 'ghost' companies," said fraud unit Staff Sgt. Stephanie Burns in a release.

"When in doubt, contact a credit company to determine if there are any discrepancies in your credit history."

Ottawa police are asking anyone with further information to contact the fraud unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 5433.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Whole Foods is facing four charges under the Retail Business Holiday Act for being open on Good Friday earlier this month. Const. Marc Soucy said the case is still under investigation and more charges could be laid. STEVE COLLINS/METRO

Whole Foods being brought to court

BUSINESS

Charges stem from store staying open on Good Friday

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

A Whole Foods store in Ottawa is being brought to court next month for being open on Good Friday.

Ottawa police said the store's manager, Lisa Slater, was served with four summonses under the Retail Holiday Business Act, according to Ottawa police.

The charges are all associated with the store allowing customers in for business on the holiday.

A court appearance has been set in provincial offences court in Nepean for May 21.

Const. Marc Soucy said the case is still under investigation and more charges could be laid.

Slater told Metro she was aware of the charges.

"I don't have a response at this time," she said Monday afternoon.

Outside the scene of the crime at Whole Foods Monday, few people could see what the fuss was about.

"I'm not a religious person, so I don't care," said Jeff Kainz. "They can open on any religious holiday they want. I think those laws have to change. They're so anachronistic."

For Binayak Kanungo, the issue was fair play.

"If every other grocery can't be open on Good Friday, then it wouldn't make sense for the new one to come and burst their way in," he said. "Cool business decision on their part to try to capture that market that won't be captured elsewhere but since they are here, I guess they do have to follow the laws of the area."

Lauren Cloot had no problem with the holiday opening as long as Whole Foods wasn't forcing any employees to take the shifts.

"I think it's fair to be open if they want to be open," she said. "I had no idea that you could be fined for that. That explains why so many places are actually closed. Hey, if I'd known they were going to be open on Easter, I wouldn't have come Saturday."

WITH FILES FROM STEVE COLLINS

LANSDOWNE PARK

Pushing public transit over parking

Lansdowne's parking problems may not have been that bad for the Redblacks' opening season, but neighbourhood groups are still calling for more pedestrian-friendly access to the park.

According to an Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG) report presented to the transportation committee on Monday, 36 per cent of Redblacks fans took the shuttle to the games — roughly 8,800 people. Off-site parking demand was lower than expected, with a 39.3 per cent usage rate.

Brian Mitchell of the Glebe Community Association said the traffic effects had "much improved," but neighbours still took issue with the day-to-day parking along the side streets.

A no-fare zone on Bank Street, cycling improvements and a new rapid-transit plan to Lansdowne might help ease the congestion, he said.

A footbridge between Fifth Avenue and Clegg Street would encourage more pedestrian access to Lansdowne Park, according to an Old Ottawa South Community Association representative. Coun. Mathieu Fleury said they are working on setting a construction date.

OSEG CEO Bernie Ashe said the plan is to reduce the number of parking spaces for shuttle service this year to encourage more public transit use.

"Many of the stores and restaurants and theatres are just opening, so it's too early to tell whether or not there are going to be day-to-day problems," he said. "We have not had any up until this point, but we will continue to accept community feedback on how things go as we approach spring and summer."

Coun. Bob Monette proposed parking on the TD Place field in the winter, when it's not being used. OSEG officials said they would look into it.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

‘Few side effects’ with new pancreatic cancer treatment

HEALTH

Disease weak to lab-enhanced viruses, say researchers

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Sindy Hooper and her husband Jon cross the finish line at Ironman Canada in Whistler, B.C. on Aug 25, 2013. Inset: Dr. John Bell. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Sindy Hooper is a triathlete, mom and cancer survivor. But she doesn’t have much of an audience to share her story with, because pancreatic cancer doesn’t get much air time.

That’s because those diagnosed don’t live long enough to raise awareness, she says.

“The chemotherapy doesn’t work with pancreatic cancer. They will put you on chemotherapy, but average survival rate is just six months,” she said.

Around 4,400 Canadians die each year from the disease, and only six per cent who are diagnosed live longer than five years. Breast cancer, by comparison, has a five-year survival rate of 88 per cent.

Researchers at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) are hoping that this dismal number might change if they can find a new way to target the cancer cells.

Unlike many other tumours, pancreatic cancer cells morph nearby healthy cells into cancer-associated fibroblasts, which can make tumours resistant to therapy.

A research paper published Monday explores the idea of using cancer-fighting viruses instead.

The paper, lead by postdoctoral fellow Dr. Carolina Ilkow, mentions experiments that found cancer-associated fibroblasts to have a unique weakness to lab-enhanced viruses — a growing field in medical research.

“We think, if all our dreams come true, that we could use these viruses to effectively treat people with pancreatic cancer,” said Dr. John Bell, one of the paper’s co-authors and a senior scientist at OHRI.

Bell said the virus research will continue, but it will still be at least a few years before clinical trials will be possible.

“The other nice benefit of the virus approach versus chemotherapy is that there’s really very few side effects,” said Bell. “Patients get a bit of fever the first day, but they don’t lose their hair or experience other off-target effects.”

> **We could use these viruses to effectively treat people with pancreatic cancer.**
> Dr. John Bell

That’s good news for Hooper, who faced a gruelling seven-month routine of fatigue and nausea from chemotherapy and radiation, and still worries about her cancer returning.

Hooper was a dedicated triathlete before her diagnosis, and believes she’s one of the few people who have completed an Ironman race while undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

Now she’s raising money for Bell’s research through “Marathoners Gone Viral,” a group of 128 runners training for the Ottawa Marathon on May 22.

The group has already reached their goal of $50,000.

“I hope I get to live longer, because I will keep trying to be an advocate for pancreatic cancer and trying to raise awareness,” she said. “I want to get more research funding diverted towards it so that the survival rates can start to even come close to the other cancers.”

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Three schools claim top spots in Fraser rankings

EDUCATION

French-language Catholic school ranked first

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

An Ottawa technical school achieved the number-one spot last year on a list that ranks Ontario schools by academic performance.

The Fraser Institute's annual report card on Ontario's secondary schools ranks 749 of the province's schools based on standardized-testing numbers.

This year the Centre professionnel et technique Minto, a French-language Catholic school, took first place on the list.

"I was not surprised, but very pleased to see that we were ranked first in the whole province," said Dany Dumont, the school's principal.

"It seems to prove that we're doing the right thing."

The school mostly focuses on mechanical, construction and electrical streams, but also offers programs in fashion, aesthetics and culinary arts.

"We prepare our students for testing in all of their classes. Everybody's working together to achieve the same goals, whether it's math or French," Dumont said. "Everything is hands-on and we're letting the teachers try new things."

It's the first year the school has been included in the list, and it is considerably smaller than many other area schools.

Dumont said the small population means teachers can monitor at-risk students and provide support. In addition, the school uses new technology and offers more choices in areas such as reading material to encourage learning.

Kalli Cole, a grade 12 student at the Centre professionnel et technique Minto, works on a project in construction class. Minto was the number one ranked school in the Fraser Institute's Ontario secondary school report card. CONTRIBUTED

"Minto earned that 10 out of 10 (grade) on the basis of playing by the rules in terms of our report, and that's terrific," said Peter Cowley, a spokesperson for the Fraser Institute.

In the past, teachers and parents have criticized the ranking system, arguing that the purely numbers-based analysis doesn't reflect the schools' quality, but Cowley said it remains a valuable tool.

"It is one measure that parents can use to determine, in general, how is the school doing academically compared to others," he said.

Other Ottawa-area schools that placed high on the list included West Carleton Public School in Dunrobin, which placed at number 17, and Colonel By Secondary School, which placed third.

> **I was not surprised, but very pleased to see that we were ranked first in the whole province.** Dany Dumont

RANKINGS

Top three spots:

1. **Centre professionnel et technique Minto** was ranked first out of 749 high schools in the province. The school mostly focuses on mechanical, construction and electrical streams, but also offers programs in fashion, aesthetics and culinary arts. 10/10
2. **Havergal College**, a private all-girls prep school in Toronto, took second place. Tuition and residence fees for a single year were $53,180 in 2015, according to the school's website. 9.4/10
3. **Colonel By Secondary School** in Gloucester came third in the rankings, with particularly high success in academic math and the grade 10 standardized literacy test. 9.3/10

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BUSINESS

Glebe BIA wants new status

Despite charges laid this week against Whole Foods for opening on Good Friday, holiday shopping could become legal in Lansdowne Park and the Glebe.

Bernie Ashe, CEO of OSEG, which operates Lansdowne, confirmed Monday that they're applying with the BIA for status as a tourist area, such as the By-Ward Market. That would allow businesses to open on holidays.

"We're a member of the Glebe BIA and it is the Glebe BIA that is going to be formally applying for the designation," Ashe said. "We are going to be playing an important part of that."

Lansdowne, he added, is a definite tourist draw: "What we do here, our business, is about tourism and entertainment. We attract people here whether they're from inside the city or outside the city to special events and sports and entertainment. We have an 18-acre park here where people can come and look at heritage properties like the Aberdeen Pavilion and the Horticulture Building."

The application should be ready in the next 60 days, but after that, it's in the city's hands. STEVE COLLINS/METRO

IN BRIEF

Paul Wesley coming to Ottawa Comiccon

Actor Paul Wesley, who plays Stefan Salvatore in the CW's hit television show The Vampire Diaries, will be a featured guest at Ottawa's comic convention from May 8 to 10. Wesley's character is a 166-year-old vampire and one of the male leads in the series.

Despite the common myth that vampires have no reflection and can't be photographed, Wesley will be signing autographs and doing a photo-op May 10 at Ottawa Comiccon.

A special fan Q&A will also take place, according to the event's website. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

CORRECTION

Connor Stevenson, an 18-year-old man slain on April 14, was fully sighted. An editing error in a headline in the April 20 edition gave the impression he was blind. Metro regrets the error.

Second twin receives new liver

HEALTH

Donor gives girl what her dad could not

A three-year-old girl from Kingston has undergone a liver transplant two months after her twin sister had the same surgery to combat a potentially fatal genetic disorder.

A post on the family's Facebook page says Binh Wagner received her "gift" from an anonymous donor, though the timing of the surgery is being kept secret to protect the donor's privacy.

The girls suffer from Alagille syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects vital organs. Without a liver transplant, the girls would die.

Binh's twin sister Phuoc returned home from hospital last month after receiving part of her father Michael Wagner's liver.

Their story made headlines around the world when the family said it couldn't possibly decide which daughter would get the transplant, so they left it to doctors to pick the best candidate based on medical reasons.

The family went public with a plea to find a second donor for Binh. The response was overwhelming, with nearly 500 people contacting Toronto General Hospital to offer parts of their liver to the little girl.

Dr. Gary Levy, who runs the liver-donor program at the hospital, said shortly after the appeal that they had identified a handful of candidates for Binh.

Phuoc, who received the new liver in mid-February, remained in hospital for about a month as she recovered and fought off a few illnesses.

The changes in Phuoc were startling, Wagner told The Canadian Press last month. Her complexion was no longer a yellow hue.

"You can see the white of her eyes; we've never seen them," Wagner said. The constant scratching has stopped, and she was finally sleeping through the night.

The family wrote on Facebook on Monday that Phuoc has recently managed to sleep without her feeding pump.

The family also said on Facebook that Binh is "recovering well, at her own pace," despite experiencing "very different medical issues" from her sister.

The family could not immediately be reached for comment but is planning a news conference Tuesday morning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Binh, right, and Phuoc Wagner pose for a photo in Toronto on Monday. Binh, a three-year-old girl from Kingston, has received a liver transplant two months after her twin sister Phuoc underwent the same surgery. SICKKIDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"We are looking forward to all being reunited and leading a healthier life now.**
> Family Facebook post

SHOOTING

Envoy's son pleads not guilty

The 15-year-old son of a Canadian diplomat pleaded not guilty Monday to murder and other charges in a drug-related shootout that killed his older brother and another teenager.

Curt Obront, attorney for Marc Wabafiyebazu, entered the plea on his behalf to felony first-degree murder, attempted murder and other charges. The teen is being charged as an adult.

Wabafiyebazu waived his appearance at the hearing, although he briefly showed up in court to meet with Obront.

"We look forward to our day in court," Obront said.

Wabafiyebazu is the son of Roxanne Dube, a veteran diplomat who is now the Canadian consul general in Miami. Her other son, 17-year-old Jean Wabafiyebazu, was fatally shot in the March 30 confrontation over a marijuana deal that also left 17-year-old Joshua Wright dead.

The shootout happened only a few weeks after the brothers relocated from their father's home in Ottawa to join their mother in Miami. They used their mother's personal car, which has diplomatic plates, but authorities say Marc Wabafiyebazu is not protected by diplomatic immunity.

Marc Wabafiyebazu, 15, appears in adult criminal court during his arraignment, Monday, in Miami. Wabafiyebazu, son of a Canadian diplomat, has pleaded not guilty to murder charges in a Miami drug-related shootout that killed his older brother. WALTER MICHOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dube, who was in the courtroom Monday, waved and smiled when her shackled younger son walked through.

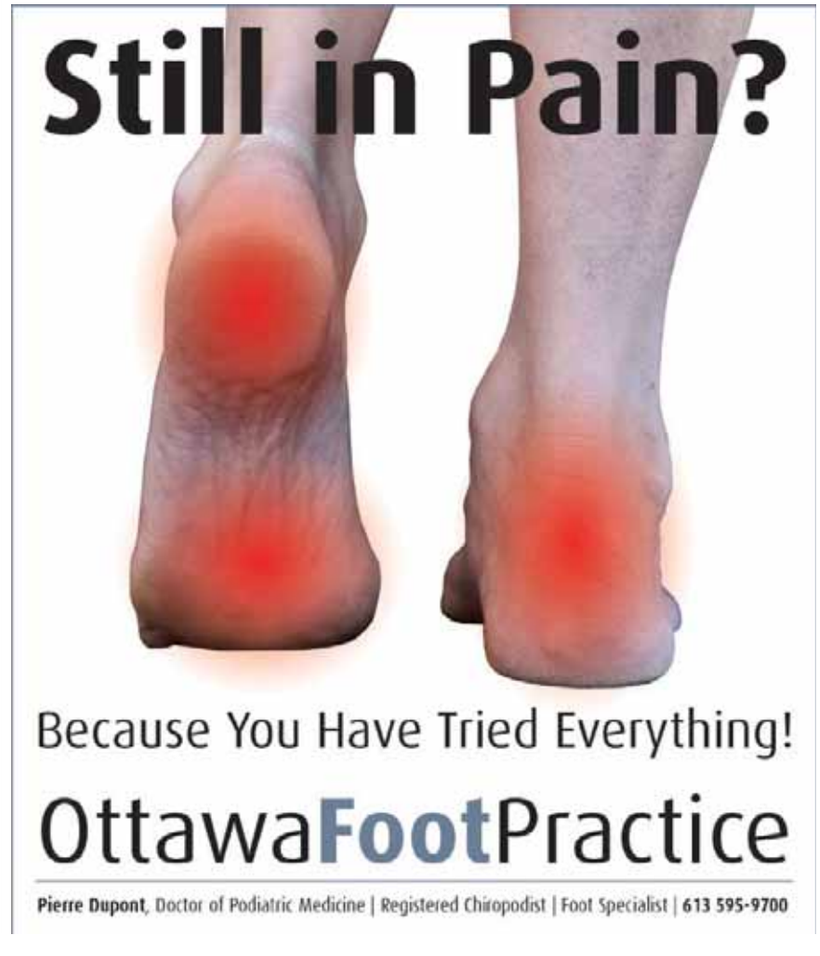
Circuit Judge Richard Hersch set a tentative July 20 trial date, which would be extremely quick for a murder case to go before a jury.

"I recognize that might not be realistic," Hersch said.

A hearing will be held next week on Obront's attempt to get Marc Wabafiyebazu released on bail. In general, it is difficult for people charged with murder in Florida to get bail, but under certain circumstances it can happen.

In a motion filed Monday seeking bail, Obront said police have surveillance video showing that Marc Wabafiyebazu stayed in his mother's car while his brother went inside to the drug meeting. The video, the motion says, shows that Marc Wabafiyebazu went inside only after hearing gunshots and does not show him shooting at anyone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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It's all or nothing, for egg shoppers on a budget

CHALLENGE DAY 1

Reporter tries, fails to buy two eggs instead of whole carton

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

I couldn't buy a couple of eggs.

I grew up in Rwanda, and I still remember young men and women walking through downtown streets — and other parts of the country — with baskets, selling all sorts of food items. An egg would go for less than 20 cents. It would be about the same price as buying the egg in a restaurant or at a food store. Whether your budget allowed for one, two, three or the entire pack, you'd have a choice.

After embracing the challenge to live on $1.75 a day, I realized in downtown Toronto, things were different. I'd set out on a shopping spree with my tiny budget and had hoped to get at least two eggs for less than a dollar, something I thought should be easy enough.

But no store would allow me to buy just two eggs; not a single store among a handful that I visited. A couple of stores had two or three boiled eggs already packaged, but the price was way outside what I could afford on my budget.

As I was pounding the streets looking for eggs, I kept thinking about the poor person, with just a few spare cents, looking for an egg or two but constantly being told to buy the whole carton.

Yes, a dozen eggs sell for about $4, and that's about 33 cents for each. But if you're among Toronto's poor, unless you have access to a farmers' market, your choices on a tight budget are limited. And it's not as if the city is free of poor people. We just learned, in fact, that 264,000 adults here are living on poverty-level wages, according to the latest Metcalf Foundation report.

It may not be surprising to see someone in the store buying just a bottle of cooking oil, one jar of juice or a single bun from the bakery section. I've never really thought that it might be all they can afford. I'm more likely to assume they're just picking up one single item missing from the fridge.

Now that I've been that person buying three tomatoes, a handful of mushrooms, a can of beans and asking for only two eggs, I have a different perspective.

I knew I was doing this as an exercise. When I try to imagine a person living in real poverty and totally bound by a tight budget, it makes me sad. That person has very little choice in how they live and has even less choice in the food they eat.

Often, we see numbers about poverty, malnutrition and access to food. Behind those numbers are real people. This challenge makes you think more about them.

LIVING BELOW THE LINE

The reporter: Gilbert Ngabo works for Metro in Toronto. He moved to Canada from Rwanda five years ago.

The mission: To live on just $1.75 a day for five days — a challenge made to all Canadians by the Global Poverty Project, which says that's the daily budget of those who live below the poverty line.

The series: Day 1 of 5, Gilbert tries and fails to buy a couple of eggs. Not six, not a dozen. Two.

Follow Gilbert Ngabo on Twitter @dugilbo or at metronews.ca.

No store would sell two eggs to Gilbert Ngabo. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

> **A couple of stores had two or three boiled eggs already packaged, but the price was way outside what I could afford on my budget.**

Gilbert Ngabo tried his luck at finding two eggs at Loblaws at Queen's Quay and Lower Jarvis in Toronto Monday. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Struck out again at a Shoppers Drug Mart. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

GROCERIES

Egg search, store by store

I set off Monday to try to find two eggs. The results were as follows:

— An employee at a Shoppers Drug Mart looked at me incredulously before saying there was no way I could be given just two separate eggs.

— A Metro store had a six-pack of eggs for $2.99, but my budget would only allow for two eggs under a loonie, combined. A staff member told me she had never seen anyone trying to buy just a few eggs. They did have a packet with two boiled eggs, but it would have cost $1.12.

— It was the same story at Loblaws, where a pair of boiled eggs goes for a little less than a toonie.

Mulroney honoured for apartheid efforts

SOUTH AFRICA

Former prime minister given award for his fierce hostility

Former prime minister Brian Mulroney is being recognized for his contributions to the South African liberation movement with a national order, the country's highest honour.

Mulroney is the first Canadian to receive the "Order of the Companions of O.R. Tambo," an award that acknowledges foreign leaders and citizens for "friendship shown to South Africa."

Mulroney is being given the award for what the South African government calls an exceptional contribution to the liberation movement of South Africa. Mulroney's work in opposing apartheid and in helping to secure the release of activist and eventual South African president Nelson Mandela earned him the Companion of the Order of Canada in 1998.

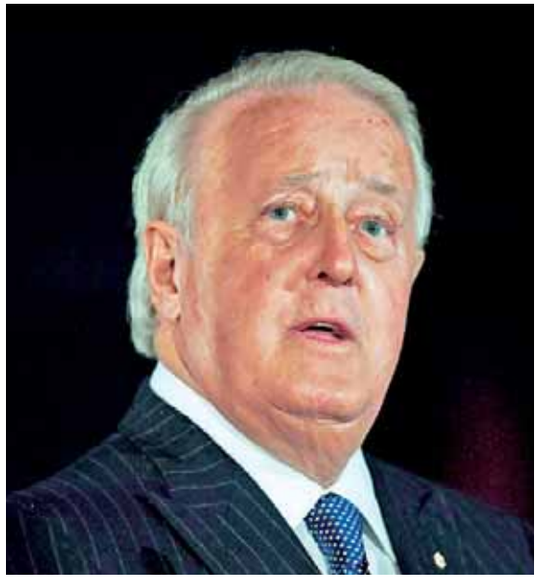
Cassius Lubisi, South Africa's chancellor of national orders, announced the recipients on the weekend.

"His steadfast support for the release of Nelson Mandela and for imposing sanctions on South Africa's apartheid regime led to a free, democratic, non-sexist and non-racial South Africa," Lubisi said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

While in office, Mulroney's government strongly opposed apartheid, a system of racial segregation in South Africa that was at the centre of political violence that kept the region in a state of emergency until 1990.



Brian Mulroney is the first Canadian to receive the "Order of the Companions of O.R. Tambo." JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUBLIC OPINION

Environment poll puts Canadians in middle

A new global poll of consumers in 23 countries suggests Canadians are middle of the pack when it comes to concern over the environment and how their shopping choices affect it.

But the poll of 28,000 people by the international survey firm GfK still found that most Canadians believe companies need to be environmentally responsible and try to reflect those values when they spend their money.

"We have a sizable number of Canadians that really put issues around environmentalism and corporate responsibility ... front and centre," said Angelo Pierro of GfK Canada.

The poll, conducted online and face-to-face last summer, asked respondents a series of questions about how they reconcile their environmental beliefs and their consumer habits.

Around the world, 76 per cent of respondents agreed that companies and brands should be environmentally responsible.

But the poll suggests a wide divergence between different countries, ranging from 93 per cent agreement in India to only 58 per cent in Japan.

Canada came in just below average at 73 per cent — higher than the United States at 66 per cent but well behind countries such as France, Brazil, Russia and China.

The story was similar when respondents were asked if they feel guilty when they do something that harms the environment. The global average was 63 per cent, 10 points higher than the Canadian average.

Pierro said a distinct pattern began to emerge. Rapidly developing countries with large, urbanizing populations such as Indonesia consistently scored higher on the questions than settled, industrialized nations.

"It's interesting countries on the developing side are demonstrating a lot higher sensitivity to topics around environmental responsibility compared to some of the western democracies," he said.

"It seems like some of these developing countries are very concerned about this."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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World Vision

Finance minister's blue shoes mark federal budget

POLITICS

Budget to be augmented with host of measures

The symbolism of Finance Minister Joe Oliver donning a pair of Tory-blue sneakers on Monday for the traditional new-budget-shoes photo op shouldn't be lost on anyone.

A federal election may be six months away, but Tuesday's promised delivery of the Harper government's first balanced spending blueprint in eight years means the Conservatives are already off and running.

The well-orchestrated march to the 2015 general election began more than a year ago, when the government presented a 2014 budget that, it turns out, could have reasonably showed a surplus — but held off the big reveal until Canadians were closer to the ballot box.

The parliamentary budget office last week predicted 2014-15 will come in $3.4 billion in the black — a possible jump start on those "New Balance" runners Oliver slipped on at a Toronto shoe store.

The long march continued last Halloween at a campaign-style event in Vaughan, Ont., where Prime Minister Stephen Harper rolled out a five-year, $27-billion package of improvements to family benefits and targeted tax cuts — a sort of rolling campaign barrage timed to light up the fireworks in July when families receive their first retroactive benefit cheques.

Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver shows off his new budget shoes during a photo op in Toronto on Monday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRADITION

It is a Canadian custom for finance ministers to purchase or wear new shoes for Budget Day.

The simple electoral arithmetic of tax breaks and benefit boosts was on display Monday in the House of Commons.

"In my riding of Oak Ridges–Markham, (constituents) get up every morning, they get to work and what they want their government to do is put more money back in their pockets to invest in their priorities," said Paul Calandra, Harper's parliamentary secretary.

Between Tuesday's budget launch and those well-timed, mid-summer family cheques, there will be an orgy of government self-promotion, with $7.5 million already earmarked for "economic action plan" advertising.

> **By eliminating two (percentage) points off the GST and then giving away other tax room, they have made the framework impervious to policy.**
>
> Elly Alboim, a principal at Earnscliffe Strategy Group and former adviser to former Liberal finance minister Paul Martin

These large set pieces of the Conservative re-election campaign will be augmented Tuesday with a host of smaller measures aimed up shoring up perceived weaknesses and bolstering perceived strengths.

Help for seniors — a key Conservative voting demographic — is also expected through changes to registered retirement income fund rules and a long-promised doubling of the $5,500 annual limit on tax-free savings accounts.

There will be cash for the national-security apparatus, a big government selling point in this season of domestic terror attacks and overseas military missions.

Announcements linked to the upcoming countrywide celebrations for Canada's 150th birthday in 2017 are also expected as the Conservatives pound home the "Strong Proud Free" marketing tag line they've introduced to government ads.

There will likely be targeted infrastructure funding for major public-transit projects, spending the government will promote as "green" to help cover a weak environmental policy flank while wooing those suburban commuters Calandra referenced.

And there may be measures to bolster manufacturing, small businesses and skills training as the Conservatives attempt to buff their job-creation credentials.

Headlining it will be the return to surplus, backstopped by proposed balanced-budget legislation.

While the dramatic plunge in global oil prices — which spurred Oliver to delay his budget release — is viewed by some to have tripped up Conservative budget plans, it had one welcome side effect for a government heading to the electorate.

Elly Alboim, a principal at Earnscliffe Strategy Group and former adviser to former Liberal finance minister Paul Martin, said that the Conservative fiscal framework laid out in the federal budget will fetter the opposition parties.

"By eliminating two (percentage) points off the GST and then giving away other tax room, they have made the framework impervious to policy," said Alboim.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CAIRO, EGYPT

Mohamed Fahmy to get new Canadian passport

A Canadian journalist facing widely-denounced terror charges in Egypt expressed jubilation Monday after the federal government announced it will issue him a passport — reversing an earlier decision that angered many of his supporters.

"It's a victory," Mohamed Fahmy said from Cairo. "You have no idea how safe you feel when you have your passport in the back pocket of your jeans."

The first thing the 40-year-old plans to do after he receives the document?

"I can go and get married the day I get it," Fahmy said.

He's repeatedly complained that not having a passport prevented him from marrying his fiancée, who has stood by him throughout his ordeal.

The development also meant he would finally be able to "walk safely" in the streets of Cairo, he said.

Fahmy — who spent more than a year in an Egyptian prison — had been trying to get a new passport ever since his release on bail in February, claiming the lack of official documentation placed him in a precarious position.

His original passport was seized upon his arrest in December 2013 while he was working for satellite news broadcaster Al Jazeera English.

The Canadian government had refused to issue him a new passport, citing his bail conditions.

On Monday, however, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander revealed that the situation had changed.

"After several weeks of intervention by government officials on Mr. Fahmy's behalf, we are now in a position to issue Mr. Fahmy a passport despite ongoing legal issues and travel restrictions," he said in a statement.

TRIAL

Fahmy is currently undergoing his second trial and is expected be back in court on Wednesday for what he expects will be a "milestone" session.

It was unclear why the government changed its mind on the matter.

Fahmy was originally tried with two colleagues and sentenced to seven years in prison.

A successful appeal resulted in a second trial being ordered for all three men, but one of his colleagues — Australian Peter Greste — was released in February under a law that allows for the deportation of foreigners convicted of crimes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ENTERTAINMENT

Q or q: What's in a name?

So is it q or Q?

Last week, CBC announced the new Shad-hosted version of its arts-and-culture radio program Q was getting a little makeover. The show would keep its name but would be branded with a lowercase q.

Before Shad's first show aired Monday, the public broadcaster clarified its position.

The CBC said in a tweet that the show's logo would use a small q, but for "clarity and readability," the program would otherwise be referred to with an uppercase Q in written communication.

But late Monday, the CBC scrapped that plan and said it would be sticking with q after all.

"While we are in a period of transition and making changes across various platforms, you may still see both versions. However, going forward 'q' will be referred to as lower case," a spokeswoman wrote by email.

She would not say why the CBC changed its brand strategy.

The rebrand was viewed as another step by the CBC to distance itself from disgraced former Q host Jian Ghomeshi.

Ghomeshi was fired in October amid sexual-assault charges. He faces seven counts of sexual assault and one of overcoming resistance by choking, but his lawyer has said he will plead not guilty to all charges.

Shad made no mention of Ghomeshi as he steered his inaugural q broadcast in front of a live audience at CBC's Glenn Gould Studio.

The Vancouver rapper, otherwise known as Shadrach Kabango, presided over a two-hour program long on performances and relatively short on talk.

Inuk throat singer Tanya Tagaq, Toronto songwriter Bahamas and Grammy-winning Canadian pianist Chilly Gonzales all contributed performances, while further support was offered in cameo form from the likes of Elvira Kurt, Damian Abraham and Peter Mansbridge.

Shad, clad in a beanie and hoodie with a golden key dangling from a chain around his neck, seemed comfortable in the host's chair — if exceedingly willing to share the spotlight.

He welcomed guest Marc Maron, known for drawing celebrities into deeply personal conversations on his popular "WTF" podcast, by telling the 51-year-old he "hoped to learn something" from him.

Once the show went off the air, Shad told the audience that their enthusiasm "almost brought (him) to tears."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Migrant crisis perplexes EU

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Leaders to meet Thursday in Brussels

Shaken by the feared drowning of hundreds of people in the latest Mediterranean tragedy, European leaders struggled Monday for an adequate response in the face of unremitting migrant flows and continued instability in Libya that has given free rein to human traffickers.

Even as the search continued for victims of the weekend disaster that left as many as 950 people feared dead, coast guard ships rushed to respond to new distress calls on the high seas — two off Libya and a third boat that ran aground near Greece.

Decrying what he called an "escalation in these death voyages," Italian Premier Matteo Renzi urged Europe to put the focus on preventing more boats from leaving Libya, the source of 90 per cent of migrant traffic to Italy.

"We are facing an organized criminal activity that is making lots of money, but above all ruining many lives," Renzi said at a joint news conference with Malta's prime minister, Joseph Muscat. He compared their activity to that of slave traders of centuries past, "unscrupulous men who traded human lives."

The European Union foreign affairs chief, Federica Mogherini, said this weekend's appalling human toll — which, if verified, would be the deadliest migrant tragedy ever — had "finally" fully awakened the European Union to the evils of human trafficking.

The EU has been under increasing criticism for lagging in its response to the crisis, with two shipwrecks believed to have taken the lives of as many as 1,300 migrants in the past week. Some 400 people are believed to have drowned in another capsizing on April 13.

Stopping the traffickers will be a key item on the agenda when EU leaders meet in an emergency summit Thursday in Brussels, along with a proposal to double spending on sea patrols off Europe's southern border. The 10-point plan includes a proposal to take "civil-military" action modeled on previous operations in the Horn of Africa to combat Somali piracy.

Meanwhile, new details emerged about the weekend disaster, with Italian prosecutors saying hundreds of migrants were locked below deck unable to escape when the rickety boat capsized off the coast of Libya.

At a news conference in Catania, Sicily, prosecutor Giovanni Salvi said "a few hundred were forced into the hold and they were locked in and prevented from coming out." He said hundreds more were locked on a second level of the boat, which also had hundreds of migrants squeezed into its upper deck.

Salvi said the migrants rushed to one side of the boat as they saw a Portuguese-flagged container vessel approach, with the promise of rescue contributing to the disaster.

"Merchant ships don't have adequate training for rescues in the seas," Salvi warned. "The fact is, sea rescues are difficult and require professionalism."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1,300

The EU has been under increasing criticism for lagging in its response to the crisis, with two shipwrecks believed to have taken the lives of as many as 1,300 migrants in the past week.

A man rescues a migrant from the Aegean Sea Monday, in the eastern island of Rhodes. Greek authorities said that at least three people have died, including a child, after a wooden boat carrying migrants ran aground off the island. ARGIRIS MANTIKOS/EUROKINISSI VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Immigrants flee South Africa after deadly attacks

Worried about their safety, hundreds of African immigrants headed out of South Africa in buses on Monday following deadly attacks on foreign-owned shops. South Africa's anti-immigrant attacks, in which seven people have been killed this month, have angered many across the continent. South African diplomats in at least two other African countries reported threats of reprisal attacks because of the violence at home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen flatten houses

Saudi-led airstrikes hit weapons caches held by Iran-backed Shiite rebels, touching off massive explosions Monday in Yemen's capital that killed at least 19 people and buried scores of others under the rubble of flattened homes. The U.S. Navy, meanwhile, has dispatched the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt toward the waters off Yemen to join other American ships prepared to intercept any Iranian vessels carrying weapons to the rebels, U.S. officials said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spanish boy kills teacher

A 13-year-old Spanish boy armed with a crossbow and a machete killed a substitute teacher and wounded four other people at his school in Barcelona on Monday, police said. The unidentified boy was detained by police as a suspect in the attack that also saw two other teachers and two students injured. Authorities said the boy, who was undergoing a psychiatric examination, will not face criminal charges because he is under the age of 14. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cirque du Soleil founder keeps kids out of Big Top

ENTERTAINMENT

Guy Laliberté sells his circus to U.S., Chinese investors

The force behind Cirque du Soleil's nearly 31-year run as a world-renowned Canadian success story is selling the famed circus even though his seven-year-old daughter has dreams of one day becoming a clown.

"I truly don't believe in second-generation entrepreneurship," Guy Laliberté told a news conference on Monday after announcing the sale to a U.S. private equity firm.

Laliberté, 55, has five children between the ages of seven and 18, but said that having them take over the Cirque was never really an option. "From the outset, I didn't want to put the pressure of running the circus on their shoulders."

Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberté speaks to the media at a news conference Monday in Montreal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The creator of the Cirque, which wowed the world with breathtaking and cutting-edge shows, will maintain a 10 per cent stake in the Montreal-based company through his family trust and will provide strategic and creative input.

Equity firm TPG is acquiring a 60 per cent stake for an undisclosed price. Chinese investment firm Fosun will have a 20 per cent stake and Quebec pension fund manager the Caisse de dépôt another 10 per cent.

The transaction — which Laliberté said wasn't a "fire sale" at a reported value of around $1.5 billion — will also see partner Dubai World sell its 10 per cent stake.

Laliberté dismissed any suggestions the Cirque is in financial difficulty, saying it is a profitable venture that sells 11 million tickets a year. He said the sale will be good for the Cirque as it aligns with partners that can nearly double its growth by piercing the complex Chinese market and expanding third-party licensing deals and digital media.

Although the new owners have made a commitment to Investment Canada to preserve the Cirque's Montreal headquarters, there's no written guarantee. But incoming chairman Mitch Garber said TPG understands the company's core value is its Quebec-based creativity.

Laliberté rejected a newspaper cartoon that showed U.S. flags flying over the Cirque's big top. He likened the Cirque to other Quebec-based companies like Alimentation Couche-Tard, Molson Coors, Bombardier and Garda that have large U.S. shareholders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PARTNERS

Long hunt for right match

Guy Laliberté said he was surprised to have lasted so long, having originally foreseen a 10-year run. He began to think about finding a strategic partner in 2006, and thought he found the right match two years later in Dubai World, a large real estate developer that quickly ran into financial difficulties. The latest sale process originally identified 94 potential partners. Eight finalists were chosen from those that responded with offers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOOD

KD set to remove artificial colour

Kraft is pledging to remove synthetic colouring from its Canadian Kraft Dinner Original product by the end of 2016.

This year will mark the last that the original version of Kraft Mac & Cheese, as it is sold in the U.S., will contain artificial preservatives or synthetic colours.

In January, Kraft said its macaroni and cheese would be coloured using paprika, annatto and turmeric.

There has been a huge shift away from processed foods in the U.S. and larger food producers are trying to follow their customers in that direction.

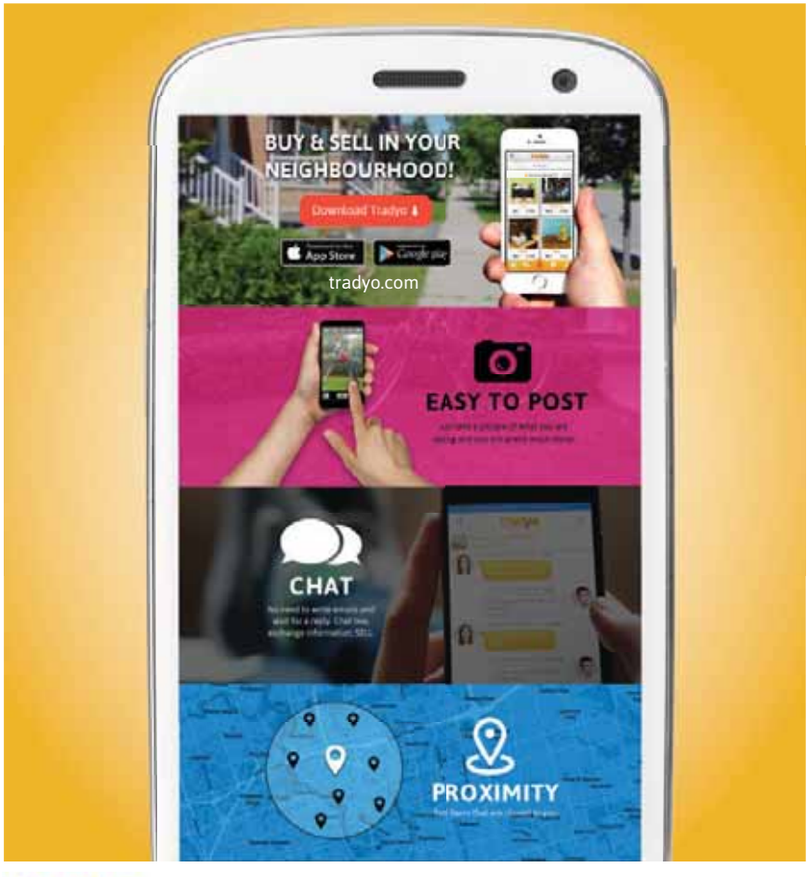
A Change.org petition that began in March 2013 asked Kraft to remove dyes from its macaroni and cheese. The petition garnered more than 365,000 signatures.

The company is already selling a product in the U.S., called Kraft Mac & Cheese Boxed Shapes, which has no artificial flavours, preservatives or synthetic colours.

Kraft said that its other macaroni and cheese varieties sold in the U.S., such as Shapes Cups, Original Cups, Premium Flavours and Easy Mac, will have no artificial flavours, preservatives or synthetic colours by next year.

The company said that it has worked for some time to make the changes to the product, but had to ensure that customers would not notice a change in taste.

"We weren't ready to change the product until we were confident that Kraft Macaroni & Cheese tastes like Kraft Macaroni & Cheese," the company said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Canadian pianist inspires Apple staff

When it comes to obsessively meticulous attention to detail, it seems Apple employees could learn something from Glenn Gould.

At the company's internal Apple University, professor Joshua Cohen delivers three-hour seminars on the late, great Canadian pianist to classes of 15 students who typically occupy "senior leadership positions" at the tech giant.

"(Gould's) attention to detail is an important focus of the conversation about him. And it strongly resonates with people here," Cohen says.

Cohen focuses much of his attention on Gould's 1955 debut recording Bach: The Goldberg Variations, considered to be a preposterously demanding piece of music. But the then-22-year-old Gould attacked it with characteristic doggedness and brazen self-assurance.

Cohen's presentation at Apple University touches on Gould's belief in music's "ethical importance," part of what fuelled his lofty ambition. He rerecorded certain arias for his debut over and over and over, in search of perfection.

The infamously eccentric Gould could be stubborn, a personality trait that seems to strike a chord with Apple decision-makers. "It's his willingness to be unreasonable — meaning, not to worry about the conventional ways of playing things, and to have a strength of conviction about there being a right way to do them," Cohen says.

The late Canadian pianist Glenn Gould rehearses in this undated handout photo. COURTESY CBC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

One might be tempted to draw parallels between Gould and exacting Apple visionary Steve Jobs. The late Jobs was, in fact, a fan, and told biographer Walter Isaacson that he was fond of comparing Gould's original 1955 recording of the Goldberg Variations to the second edition he issued just before his death in 1981.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NATURAL GAS: $2.536 US (-9.8¢)
DOW JONES: 18,034.93 (+208.63)

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, April 21, 2015

the big number

81.1%

That's how many Canadians are urbanites as of 2011 — a near-complete reversal of the ratio 150 years earlier, in 1861, when city dwellers comprised less than 16 per cent of pre-Confederation Canada. Among G8 countries, we're the third most urbanized, behind the U.K. and U.S. Among 15- to 29-year-olds, the current divide is even more pronounced: Only 17 per cent live in rural areas. Statistics Canada

Put accessibility on the agenda for new transit

YOUR RIDE
Kathryn Hunt

Back in 2007, the American Disability Association ran a striking ad in subway and transit stations.

It was one of those "skin" ads that uses the whole surface of an object. In this case, it was printed on the facing side of a set of stairs, so that as you approached the stairs, the image resolved and you saw a picture of a sharp mountain range facing you. Text on one of the lower stairs read, "For some, It's Mt. Everest." On a stair below that, it said, "Help build more handicap facilities."

With the attention on new transit construction right now, due to the recent announcement that a section of the Transitway is being shut down, it helps to remember that, in designing any new transit project, we should remember people of all abilities.

OC Transpo already operates a number of "kneeling" buses, which lower the entrance platform to make it easier to board. And all of its buses now come with low floors and an automatic announcement system that tells riders which stop is coming up, along with a visual display that spells out the next stop for those who don't hear.

But there is still room for improvement.

The station elevators can be slow and unpleasant — most riders have encountered, at least once, the spectacle and smell of an elevator in a transit station that clearly has been used as an after-hours toilet.

Getting around within the system is also heavily dependent on visual tools — directions and waiting areas indicated by printed signs that only the sighted can use.

The construction and rebuilding of the new light rail line gives the city and OC Transpo a chance to make some older stations, especially the large stations along the Transitway, more welcoming to riders with disabilities.

There's a lot that sighted and hearing riders can do to help make the system more accessible.

In the meantime, there's much that fellow riders can do to make transit more accessible for all.

I asked Kim Kilpatrick, a music therapist and performer who is blind, about her experience taking transit. She suggested one way that other riders could help people like her.

"Some people who are blind cannot wait in bus shelters as they can't see which bus is approaching. If someone sighted could say that they would be willing to tell me which bus is coming, I might step into the shelter."

Before jumping in, however, she suggested that would-be helpers ask if someone wants or needs help first.

Kathryn Hunt @k8thek8 is a writer, editor of Centretown BUZZ, storyteller, poet, cycling blogger, rock climber, mysterious techno vixen (confirmed) and geek. Not necessarily in that order. You can read her cycling blog at theincidentalcyclist.blogspot.ca.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Fake guide dogs, and their lying, entitled, arrogant owners

Dear guide dog fraudsters.

I know you think you've been getting away with buying a fake guide-dog coat and parading into cafés and hotels, even onto planes, with your pet pooch Princess. I know, those jackets are as cheap and easy to buy online as, well, anything else.

Disability advocates like Bill Thornton, CEO of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, has had his phone ringing off the hook with complaints about fake guide dogs, he told me, like the restaurateur who wanted to know if it was normal for a guide dog to come into a restaurant, take a seat at a table, and eat a meal.

"This actually occurred," he told me, the disbelief still in his voice.

I know you think you've been getting away with it. But the guide-dog agencies are on to you. You're part of a rising problem of fake service dogs, they say, and now the B.C. government is doing something about it. A new law will soon require all guide-dog owners to carry a government-issued ID so that business owners can know for sure whether Princess is the real deal (something that already exists in Alberta).

But Thornton is most concerned about a potential backlash toward guide dogs and their owners, thanks to the likes of you and Princess.

Guide dogs are well-trained and well-behaved. Did you know that only about 50 per cent of the dogs Thornton's group trains actually get certified? The rules are tight to maintain public trust in service animals.

But Princess, as you know, has terrible manners. She barks, and she bites. And you're not much better.

Anytime someone calls you out for being a disability fraud, you become irate. Thornton hears about fraudster outbursts like yours all the time, he said.

It's unseemly, you know, on so many levels.

First, you are lying.

Second, you are playing on the sympathy of those too uncomfortable to question you about yappy, snappy Princess.

But third and worst of all, you are giving service dogs a bad name. If the public trust is broken, do you know who that hurts most? People who need dogs to see, hear, or detect an oncoming seizure.

B.C.'s Guide Dog and Service Dog act will make faking a guide dog an offence, with a fine up to $3,000 if you're caught. And I hope you are.

This isn't about Princess. This is all about you: Entitled, arrogant, narcissistic you.

Impersonating someone with a disability for your own petty gains? You can't get much lower than that, guide-dog fraudster.

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Sleeping Giant rouses Cannes

FILM FESTIVAL

Canadian director's first film to screen at French fest

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Andrew Cividino was eating alone at a restaurant when he looked at his phone and screamed "Oh my God!"

He looked a little crazy at that moment, but he hadn't actually lost his mind. He's a Canadian director who'd just learned his first feature film was selected to screen at the Cannes Film Festival.

"I was actually at a McDonald's, which is a confession, and I was eating a hamburger surrounded by all of these other people," he said. "I think if you scream, 'Oh my God!' on a phone call, people know that you're talking to another human being. But if you're just looking at your screen, it's really hard for people to understand that."

He was elated to learn his film Sleeping Giant is one of seven feature films in competition at the International Critics' Week at Cannes, which is devoted to honouring new directors' first or second feature-length films.

That week has launched the careers of many famous directors, including some of Cividino's favourites: Kevin Smith, Guillermo del Toro and Alejandro González Iñárritu.

Sleeping Giant is named for the Sibley Peninsula on Thunder Bay, where Cividino spent his summers growing up. His film is the story of a boy named Adam and his friends, pushing the boundaries of safety and their youthful authority over a summer there.

It's partly inspired by Cividino's own experiences jumping off the cliffs of the Sleeping Giant into Lake Superior.

"It was really insane, we would really push our boundaries to levels I would now consider to be quite unsafe, but at the time, it just seemed like the obvious, the only thing to be doing," he said.

"There's this Lord of the Flies stage of male adolescence that comes along with these destructive impulses and one way of testing your boundaries in the world is to destroy the world around you," he said.

"That's where we follow the boys."

Nate (Nick Serino) at the wheel, Riley (Reece Moffett) in the passenger seat, and Adam (Jackson Martin) in the backseat, in a scene from Sleeping Giant. The Canadian film directed by Andrew Cividino has been selected to compete at Cannes. AARON YEGER

CASTING

Film's lead a walk-in

Cividino found the actors in Thunder Bay by putting flyers up around town. Nick Serino, who plays Adam, walked into an audition without a script, appointment or acting credits.

"He just said, 'I saw on Kijiji you guys had posted something. I'm here for the movie," Cividino said. "Within 30 seconds we knew this kid is so special."

Serino's cousin in real life, Reece Moffett, is one of the co-stars.

Cividino wanted the boys to use their own voices in the film, so he'd "workshop" the scenes with them rather than strictly sticking to the script. "Some scenes are a lot more challenging because of that, but you end up with moments that you couldn't possibly have considered writing yourself, which just ring true and are hilarious."

Director Andrew Cividino. JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

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How Sweden became a musical powerhouse

HISTORY

Moral panic of 1940s paved way for talent

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross

For a country of 35 million, Canada punches far above its weight when it comes to exporting its music to the rest of the world. But then there's Sweden. With fewer than 10 million people, the country is a musical monster.

There's the unending parade of cool indie artists: Lykke Li, Tove Lo, Peter, Bjorn & John, The Sounds, The Radio Dept., The Shout Out Louds, The Hives. And let's not even start on Sweden's role in metal. Or that Sweden is the birthplace of Spotify.

Sweden gave birth to ABBA, a group that has sold nearly 400 million albums, second only to the Beatles. It's also the home of Max Martin, the producer/songwriter who crafted megahits for the Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync, Britney Spears, Katy Perry, P!nk and Taylor Swift. He's produced more No. 1 hits than anyone except George Martin — and he had the Beatles.

So how did this sparsely populated northern European country become such a global powerhouse?

The answer starts with the 1940s, when cultural conservatives and church leaders banded together to protect the country's youth from the "dance-floor misery" of degenerate music coming from America. They set up a system of music schools — no tuition, free use of instruments — to show the young how morally uplifting classical music could be.

By the 1960s, the system diversified into other genres of music. While this diluted the original intent of streaming the young into the classical realm, it offered kids more and more opportunity to discover what musical talents they had.

Coupled with government subsidies for rehearsal space (and sometime for just rehearsing), a network of musically inclined people took root across the country. Ideas were exchanged quickly and efficiently. Tightly knit musical communities were created.

This sort of support and social networking brought the people in ABBA together. And when they hit it big, there was a sense across the country that if they could do it, anyone could. Since then, there's been a real can-do spirit amongst the musically inclined in Sweden. Now the country exports more than $150 million US in music sales to the rest of the planet, the largest per-capita in the world.

It was a social engineering experiment gone wrong, but things have worked out just fine.

Lykke Li, left, and Tove Lo GETTY IMAGES

John Moose hails from Karlstad, Sweden. CONTRIBUTED

MOBILE APP

Band's new album free to listen to — in nature

John Moose, a Swedish five-piece band, has released a mobile app that allows listeners to enjoy their debut album for free. The catch: The app knows where you are, and it'll let you listen only when you get yourself to a woodland setting.

Hailing from Karlstad, the band says its roots are "in the deep wild woods of Värmland," a province in which Karlstad is the largest city. John Moose is also the name of a character whose stories they tell through their songs, which "tell a tale of escapism, where he finds himself stuck in the ambivalence between the civilization and its counterpart."

With that in mind, the musicians want those who experience their album to find themselves in a similar space.

The album — which can also be pre-ordered now, with shipping to next week — is available in its entirety via the app, which can be downloaded for iOS or Android via johnmoosemusic.com/prerelease. Download it where you like, but to begin listening to the music, you'll need to be in a spot your phone recognizes as woods.

"Walk to the woods ..." the app instructs, followed by the message, "You are there. Now listen."

Tobias Norén, the band's drummer and digital director of Bacill production agency, says the wooded areas are detected through Google Static Maps API. AFP

SIDELINE

Willie Nelson to roll out own brand of marijuana

Music legend Willie Nelson is jumping into the movement to commercialize marijuana and plans to roll out his own brand of cannabis that he intends to make "the best on the market."

The singer-songwriter announced in a statement Monday that Willie's Reserve will be grown and sold in Colorado and Washington, two states where recreational use of the drug is legal.

Nelson is a longtime supporter of marijuana for personal use and has spoken of its benefits for hemp production. He's also pushed for the end of laws criminalizing use of the drug.

Nelson joins other famous pot personalities, including rapper Snoop Dogg, who endorses vaporizing products; singer Melissa Etheridge, developing marijuana-infused wine; and reality TV star and self-help guru Bethenny Frankel, who is working on a strain of Skinnygirl weed that wouldn't leave users with the munchies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOPHOMORE RELEASE

Alabama Shakes' new album 'pretty eclectic'

So many promising music careers are tripped up by the challenge of following a successful debut that its perils are an industry cliché.

Now the Alabama Shakes face this unavoidable rite of passage. The bar band from Athens, Ala., with electrifying frontwoman Brittany Howard sold 737,000 copies of its first disc, earned three Grammy nominations, performed twice on Saturday Night Live, played for President Obama and earned enough critical hurrahs to fill a trunk.

Faced with the choice of fulfilling or confounding expectations with its new Sound & Color (out Tuesday), the Shakes chose the latter. The band is challenging its audience to move forward, almost defiantly so. During its first Coachella performance earlier this month, the set list notably did not include Hold On, Hang Loose or Always Alright, three of the young act's best-known songs.

"We knew some people would probably want a similar record and there were some people who would probably be frustrated if we did something similar," said guitarist Heath Fogg, neatly summarizing the classic second album dilemma. "There's no point in trying to please anybody other than ourselves."

Brittany Howard, frontwoman of Alabama Shakes, performs onstage at Coachella. GETTY IMAGES

> **There's no point in trying to please anybody other than ourselves.**
> Guitarist Heath Fogg

The band describes the adventurousness of Sound & Color as less a strategy than a reflection of the creative process.

Howard said that when she began writing songs, she quickly got bored because it seemed she was trying to write songs that were familiar, that sounded like things she had already written. That self-awareness freed her to experiment more.

"It's a pretty eclectic mixed bag of things that we like," Howard said.

"It wasn't intentional. I think we just had grown up as artists and players. There's so much that we are into and so much that we like. The roots of our music will always be there, because that's how we get along with each other. But there are so many languages, as far as music goes, that we can speak with to one another."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lighten up on the locker-room louts

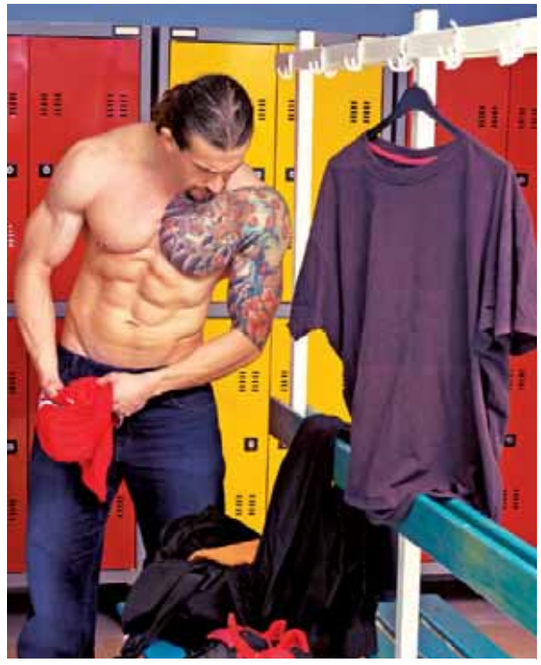
GYM MANNERS

Sloths who strew sweaty clothes aren't your problem

URBAN ETIQUETTE

Ellen Vanstone

Dear Ellen,
One of my biggest pet peeves is walking into my gym's change room to find a pile of sweaty gym clothes left on the bench or on the ground. The gym has plenty of lockers, so I really don't understand why people would strip off to go shower and just leave their clothes — don't even get my started on the underwear — out for the world to see, and smell.
— Mike in Halifax



Slobs tend to be immune to threats, sighs, passive-aggressive remarks or outright begging for humane treatment of their locker-room neighbours. ISTOCK

Dear Mike,
The men you are dealing with are likely from the well-known subspecies Men Who Have Always Been Picked Up After (MWHABPUA). These are the lazy, overly entitled brats whose moms, caretakers, life- or roommates are happy to follow around, picking up soggy towels, wiping sprayed toothpaste spittle off mirrors, rinsing shaved-off stubble down the drain, and applying Polysporin to cuts on their own run-off feet after stepping on razor-sharp shards of the MWHABPUA's clipped toenails.

At least, I hope you are dealing with a MWHABPUA, because the alternative is even more disgusting — Men So In Love With Their Own Filth They Think Everyone Else Loves It Too (MSILWTOFTEELIT). These men may also have been raised by people who picked up after them. Or maybe they were raised in a barn, by wolves. Either way, there's clearly no one picking up after them now, and believe me, they don't notice, much less care. These are the type of derelict jocks who leave their reeking gym duds all over the place while they shower, and then stuff everything into their lockers still damp and warm so it can breed more tiny bacterial monsters that will reek extra hard the next time they work out.

Do they think doing laundry is for sissies? Do they think this is how real men are supposed to smell? (It's not.) Did they get punched out one too many times and their deviated septums have killed all sense of smell?

Who knows? The important thing to realize with both MWHABPUA and MSILWTOFTEELIT is that it's your problem, not theirs. Slobs of this calibre are immune to threats, sighs, passive-aggressive remarks or outright begging for humane treatment of their locker-room neighbours.

My advice is: Learn to love the louts. Now that mom's not around, you may be the only one who ever does ...

STUDY

Twitter helps predict ER visits for asthma

By scanning Twitter for words like 'wheezing' researchers can predict asthma-related ER visits. AFP

Researchers are leveraging the microblogging platform to predict the volume of asthma-related emergency room visits one Dallas hospital can expect on a given day.

Researchers at the University of Arizona (UA) and the Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation in Dallas, Texas mined Twitter for information.

Their method involves monitoring air quality data using environmental sensors and scanning Twitter for posts with relevant key words such as "asthma," "inhaler" and "wheezing." Text-mining techniques are then used to hone in on the tweets from the zip codes where most of the hospital's patients live, according to electronic medical records. By analyzing the data, the researchers developed an algorithm that predicted with 75 per cent accuracy whether the emergency room could expect a low, medium or high number of asthma-related visits on a given day. These predictions allowed the hospital to be better prepared. AFP

RESEARCH

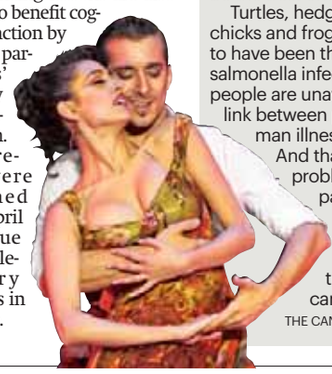
Tango steps help Parkinson's patients

The tango, that famous Argentine dance, could improve balance and functional mobility in those diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, according to a recent Canadian study.

Researchers at the Montreal Neurological Institute of McGill University and the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre found that tango lessons were linked with improved balance and functional mobility in Parkinson's patients, as well as modest benefits in terms of decreasing fatigue and boosting cognitive function. Moreover, the tango participants in the study found the activity more enjoyable, and many of them saw improvements in their mood and social life. However, no difference was observed between the group that did tango and the group that didn't in terms of overall motor function.

Typically danced at a fairly slow pace, the sensual Argentine social dance could help to improve balance thanks to its specific combination of rhythmic backward and forward steps. Dancing lessons are also thought to benefit cognitive function by soliciting participants' memory and concentration.

The results were published in the April 2015 issue of Complementary Therapies in Medicine. AFP



DISEASES

Pets may pose illness threat to children

Pets are a wellspring of love and joy for their owners. But they can also be a source of disease and should be chosen with care if someone in a household has health problems.

In a review article published in this week's Canadian Medical Association Journal, two veterinarians and a physician from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario discuss a variety of diseases people can get from pets. They make clear that in most cases, the risks to pet owners are low and the benefits of pet ownership are high. But there are some combinations of people and pets that don't make good sense.

In particular, young animals, like young children, are more likely to catch and spread germs. "It's like having that young child in the household," lead author Dr. Jason Stull, a veterinarian at Ohio State University, said in an interview. "Young dogs and cats can be fantastic pets for the average person. But if there is an individual who is severely immunocompromised, that may not be the best choice."

Turtles, hedgehogs, baby chicks and frogs are known to have been the source of salmonella infections. Most people are unaware of the link between pets and human illness, Stull said. And that can be a problem when parents decide to get a pet for a child undergoing treatment for cancer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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COVER TUNE

Imbruglia single is her first in years

The Australian singer-songwriter Natalie Imbruglia, who made it big in the late 1990s, is releasing her first single in six years on Monday.

The new single Instant Crush is from her upcoming cover album entitled Male, scheduled for release in July 2015.

Why has the female songstress opted for such a name? Like Instant Crush, which was first sung by Daft Punk and Julian Casablancas, all of the titles were first recorded by male artists.

Imbruglia told Mashable that she didn't want to touch songs previously sung by other women.

"I found it was more interesting to hear my vocals on songs done by men because it's different right away," she said.

This is not the first time Imbruglia has pursued cover music. Her first international hit single, Torn was a cover of the '90s rock band Ednaswap. AFP

Natalie Imbruglia. AFP

metro SPORTS

The Sharks and head coach Todd McLellan have agreed to part ways

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

‘He’s a guy for big moments’

Habs winger Dale Weise has a knack for scoring key goals in the playoffs. ABELIMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

NHL PLAYOFFS

Weise’s goals Sunday pushed Habs’ series lead to 3-0

Just before the playoffs, Tonight Show host Jimmy Fallon highlighted NHL players in a feature called “Player most likely to...”

The first player up was long-haired Montreal Canadiens right-winger Dale Weise, and the audience was chuckling at his mugshot even before Fallon made a joke about him looking like the “love child” of actor James Van Der Beek and “Joey from Full House.”

No one laughs at Weise in the playoffs, where he seems to transform from a grinding winger to a specialist in scoring big goals.

The latest came Sunday night in Ottawa, when he tied the game with a goal from a scramble in front of the Senators net late in the third period and then scored the winner 8:47 into overtime on a blast from the left faceoff dot that went in off a post.

The victory put Montreal up 3-0 in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference quarter-final, with a chance for a sweep in Game 4 on Wednesday night at the Canadian Tire Centre.

Weise has a modest 23 goals in 258 career NHL games, but he has five in 25 playoff matches. Three of his post-season goals were game-winners, including an overtime strike in the opening game of the first round last spring against Tampa Bay. He had two more goals as Montreal upset Boston in the second round.

“That one feels really good,” he said after his winning goal to beat the Senators. “That kind of bumped the Tampa one down a bit; just the importance of that series.

“We played so well to get that win, and taking a stranglehold on the series is big.”

Teammate P.K. Subban was impressed with Weise’s knack for scoring at key moments.

“There are guys that have made careers on that, just finding a way to get it done — and listen, he’s found a way,” said Subban. “He deserves all the attention he is getting.

“I’d rather take players that score big goals at the right time than score in the games that don’t mean anything.”

Weise, a six-foot-two, 210-pound Winnipeg native, scored 10 goals and had 19 assists in 79 games this season. He mostly played on checking units, but at times coach Michel Therrien would use him on the top line to retrieve pucks and create traffic in front of the net.

“He’s a guy for big moments,” said Therrien.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDERSON IN FINE FORM

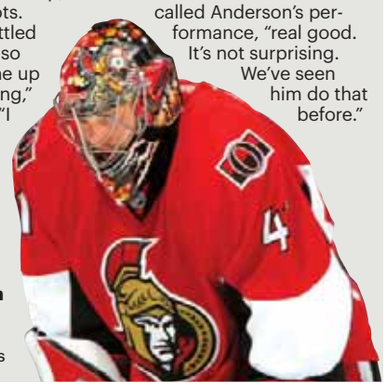
The Senators opted to go with veteran Craig Anderson in goal over Andrew Hammond in Game 3.

Anderson was sharp, stopping 47 shots.

“The guys battled so hard, played so well and to come up short is frustrating,” Anderson said. “I gave the team a chance to win and that’s my job.

“It’s frustrating I wasn’t able to get the win for the guys. We’ve got to put this behind us and get ready to go.”

Coach Dave Cameron called Anderson’s performance, “real good. It’s not surprising. We’ve seen him do that before.”



Craig Anderson JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

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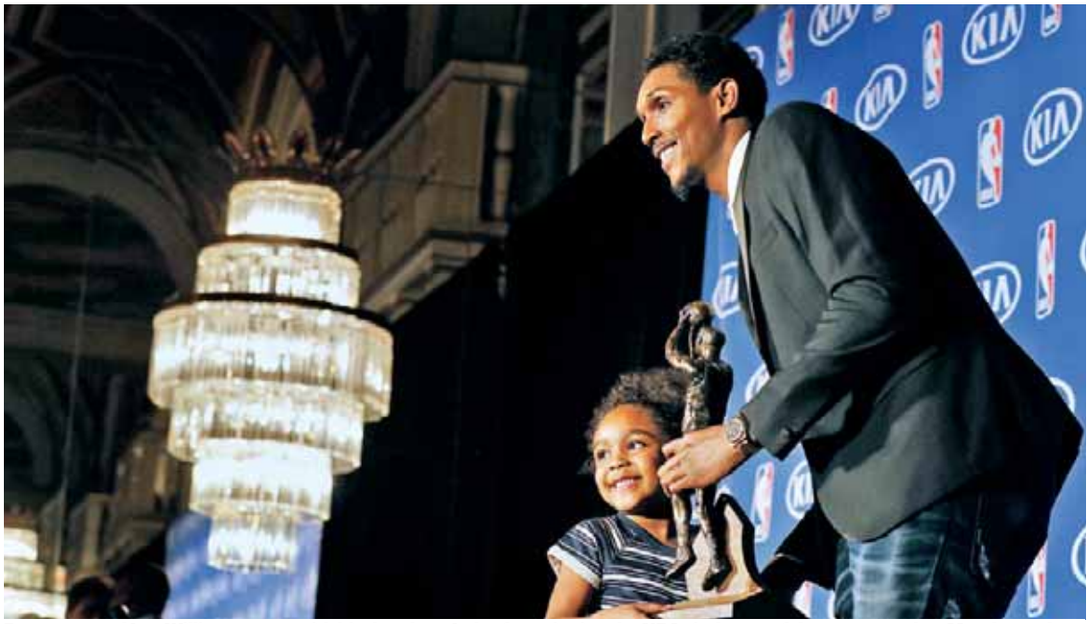


Raptors guard Lou Williams poses with his daughter Jada after winning the NBA sixth man of the year award on Monday at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lou Will continue to surprise his doubters

NBA

Once written off guard comes good winning 6th Man Award

They called him damaged goods. They said his best basketball was behind him. Lou Williams used it to drive him.

The Toronto Raptors sharpshooter — whose exploits inspired a Drake song — won the NBA's Sixth Man Award on Monday as the league's best reserve player. The honour comes less than two years after a torn anterior cruciate ligament left his career in doubt.

"It fuelled me just to work," Williams said. "When you experience a certain level of success and you know you can play at a high level, and then your legs get swiped from under you with an ACL tear, anything you can use as fuel to get back on the court, to get back to playing at a high level, we all use anything that we can.

"So I appreciate all the people that said I was damaged. But today is a special day to commemorate everything I've been through."

Williams averaged a career-high 15.5 points in his 10th NBA season, helping Toronto win a franchise-record 49 games. He's thrilled fans with his clutch three-point shooting, which prompted a team official to run the length of the court trailing a giant "Looouuuuu!" flag with each made basket.

Toronto rapper Drake, who's also the Raptors' global ambassador referenced Williams in his song 6 Man, which goes: "Boomin' out in South Gwinnett like Lou Will, 6 man like Lou Will ..."

"The song is cool, I have a soundtrack to go with the award now, so it's pretty cool," Williams said. On whether he received a memento from Drake, he said, laughing: "Yeah, I got like 100,000 Instagram followers."

"Drake got it right," said Raptors reserve Patrick Patterson. "He made the song for a reason. He predicted the future. It's a huge accomplishment for Lou.

> **The song is cool, I have a soundtrack to go with the award now, so it's pretty cool.**
> Lou Williams

We're all extremely proud of him and we're happy for him."

Williams is the first player in Raptors history to win the award, after earning 78 first-place votes and 502 total points from a panel of 130 sportswriters and broadcasters throughout the United States and Canada.

GM Masai Ujiri acquired Williams in a trade last summer with Atlanta. Williams was coming off one of the worst seasons of his career as he adjusted to his new reality.

"(I was) scared. Once I tore my ACL, that was the closest I felt to retirement," Williams said. "Just because you don't know what's ahead, the fear of not knowing. Once I finally got back on the court, I realized I couldn't jump as high, I wasn't as fast, it takes me a little while to get my legs going. It's a frightening thing, but to be here today is very gratifying."

Ujiri summed up Williams' contribution, saying: "He's done far and beyond what we expected."

Williams accepted the trophy at a posh downtown hotel, and posed beside the 2016 Kia Sorento that would be donated to The Remix Project in his name. His mom, brother, two daughters and his South Gwinnett High School coach Roger Fleetwood, from Snellville, Ga., were there to support him. Boston's Isaiah Thomas finished second in voting with 324 points.

Williams spoke gratefully of Fleetwood, calling him mentor and father figure. He recalled how the coach would pick him up for school every morning and take him to breakfast. Their car rides became coaching sessions.

"Everything he wanted me know, it was taught to me right there in the car," Williams said. "He's been everything to me." THE CANADIAN PRESS

PLAYOFF UPDATES

Those injured and returning

New Orleans Pelicans point guards Tyreke Evans and Jrue Holiday are questionable to play in Game 2 of their first-round playoff series against the Golden State Warriors on Monday because of injuries. The Warriors lead the best-of-seven series 1-0. Meanwhile, Hawks' Al Horford is back after dislocating his finger in the first game of the playoffs against the Brooklyn Nets. Atlanta leads the series 1-0. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Williams' Oracle din issue

Oracle Arena, the rollicking home of the Golden State Warriors, has been considered one of the NBA's loudest arenas for a long time. New Orleans Pelicans coach Monty Williams believes it might be too loud. "I'm not so sure that the decibel level is legal there, I'm serious," Williams said before Game 2 of their first-round playoff series Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOXING

Overloaded press call cuts off Pacquiao

Manny Pacquiao literally got two words in before a conference call about his fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. was abruptly cancelled Monday.

A spokesman for Pacquiao's promoter blamed technical difficulties for the cancellation, partly due to the large number of boxing writers and broadcasters who were on the call.

"There were so many calls the system blew," Top Rank spokesman Lee Samuels said. "We've used the same company for 10 to 15 years and this is the first time this has happened."

> **Let's reorganize and do this call some other time, please.**
> Promoter Bob Arum

Pacquiao was on the call from Los Angeles for what was supposed to be his last question-and-answer session before he arrives in Las Vegas next week for the May 2 fight. But the only question he answered was from a Top Rank PR person about how training camp was going, to which Pacquiao responded "very good." Promoter Bob Arum, who was also on the call, then got frustrated when the first caller in the queue wasn't someone who was supposed to be in line to ask a question.

"Let's reorganize and do this call some other time, please," Arum said. Samuels apologized and said it would be rescheduled. Mayweather is supposed to have his own conference call Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHLETICS

Bombed marathon victor succeeds again

Lelisa Desisa won his first Boston Marathon in 2013. But he didn't have much time to celebrate. A few hours after Desisa broke the tape on Boylston Street on Patriots' Day, two bombs near the finish line turned what should be the pinnacle of any distance runner's career into an afterthought.

Ethiopian Desisa earned his second Boston Marathon title Monday, finishing in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 17 seconds to claim a golden olive wreath, the $150,000 first prize and a winner's medal to replace the one he donated to the city two years ago in memory of the victims.

And this one he plans to enjoy. "This medal, I think, is for me," Desisa said.

Kenya's Carolina Rotich won the women's race, beating Mare Dibaba in a shoulder-to-shoulder sprint down Boylston Street. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

James vs. Jordan debate turns bad, police called

Police say an argument over whether Michael Jordan or LeBron James is a better basketball player ended in a Pennsylvania man's arrest on aggravated assault and other charges. A local newspaper reported that 22-year-old Daniel Mondelice was first arrested early Saturday after fighting with another man over whether Air Jordan or King James reigns supreme. It wasn't clear which player Mondelice backed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orioles' Chen fails to repeat his Fenway heroics

Wei-Yin Chen's start differed drasstically from his previous one in Fenway Park. Chen (0-1) walked five, gave up five unearned runs and even bobbled a grounder for an error in Baltimore's rain-shortened 7-1 loss to the Boston Red Sox in Monday's annual Patriots' Day game. "I didn't have a large strike zone which leads to a lot of walks. I feel bad for my teammates." Chen said through a translator. The game was called after 6 1/2 innings, following a delay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Frittata with Sautéed Mushrooms and Havarti

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 10
Cook time: 14

Ingredients
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/2 tsp chopped garlic
- 3/4 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1/4 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup egg substitute (or 2 large eggs)
- 3 egg whites
- 1/3 cup low-fat milk
- 1 cup fresh baby spinach
- 1/2 cup shredded Havarti
- 2 Tbsp chopped parsley

Directions

1. Lightly coat a small nonstick skillet with cooking spray. Add the oil and set over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and sauté for 3 minutes. Add the mushrooms and red pepper and cook for 5 minutes just until mushrooms are dry. Set aside.

2. Wipe out the skillet and respray. Combine the egg substitute, egg whites and milk. Cook for 4 minutes over medium heat or until the egg begins to set. Add the onion and mushroom mixture, spinach and cheese. Cover and cook another 2 minutes, or until the cheese melts

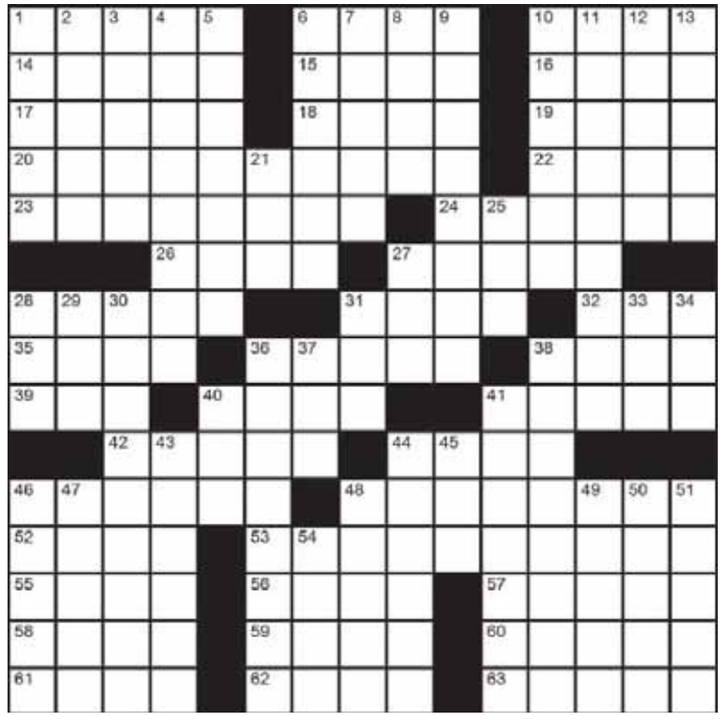
3. Slip the frittata onto a serving platter with a spatula. Cut into wedges, garnish with parsley and serve immediately

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 205
- Protein 19 g
- Carbohydrates 8 g
- Fiber 1.3 g
- Total fat 10.4 g
- Saturated fat 4.2 g
- Cholesterol 17 mg
- Sodium 320 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. The __ Diet ('Caveman' diet)
6. Beach burrower
10. Repeated train noise
14. Cut
15. Dream: French
16. German industrial region
17. Collect-and-collect...
18. Above
19. 7th Greek letters
20. Product by since-1959 Canadian brand Rougemont: 2 wds.
22. Prefix to 'phobia' (Fear of heights)
23. Liquidy lawn: 2 wds.
24. Toronto's __ Phillips Square
26. Irritate
27. Nod
28. "Dracula Has __ from the Grave" (1968)
31. Closed
32. Plank parter
35. Greyish
36. Creature on a highway crossing sign
38. Homer Simpson's mom
39. Jeannie C. Riley hit: "Harper Valley _-_-_"
40. Crow cries
41. Does darning
42. AIR-ihk __-suhn (Captain of the Ottawa Senators, as per the little pronunciation key under the names of NHL players)
44. Rime
46. Tiredness cause in some
48. Toronto Blue Jays right fielder Jose
52. Rob of reels
53. They contain backstage specifications for rockers: 2 wds.
55. Kitchen appliance
56. Dickens character, with Uriah
57. Ms. Munster's
58. Had in hand
59. Never, __ __ account
60. Devil
61. Shakespeare title starter
62. Time for lunch
63. __ __ home is his castle

DOWN
1. "Absurd!"
2. "Not __ __ in hell!"
3. Jumped
4. Tea blend: 2 wds.
5. Select from a takeout menu: 2 wds.
6. "Canada AM" movie critic Richard
7. Quebec city
8. "__ plaisir!" (Gladly, in Montreal)
9. Dominican Republic music/dance style
10. Make
11. Jeff __ (Weather/sports anchor on "Canada AM")
12. Family in "Gone with the Wind" (1939)
13. Mr. Welles
21. Flier to Narita Intl. Airport
25. Painter's pride
27. "Fancy that!" [pl.]
28. Knock at the door
29. 'Capital' suffix
30. __ __ Before Serving (Carton instruction)
31. ABBA song
33. Furthermore
34. Occurred
36. Event of endurance
37. Nocturnal bird
38. The 'M' of CTV's "Canada AM"
40. Ill. city
41. Song of Australia: "Waltzing __"
43. Betters
44. Critically dwell: 2 wds.
45. 'O' of Canadian band OLP
46. Hawaiian greeting
47. Bestselling work
48. Good: Spanish
49. Actress Ms. Blair
50. Check the dress for fit: 2 wds.
51. Organizations, briefly
54. Vintner's prefix

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You want to make a useful contribution to what's going on around you but the only way you can do that is to join with other people. You can be a loner if you wish but you will get more done if you are not so aloof

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It's time to finish those tasks that should have been completed a long time ago. The Sun in your sign means your energy levels will peak over the next few days, so get on top of your workload.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Work will be the dominant theme later in the week, so make the most of your freedom to come and go as you please now. As a Gemini you like to get out and about and meet new people — so what are you waiting for?

Cancer June 22 - July 23
One of the most trying periods of the year has come to an end and you managed to survive! You may be in the mood to celebrate but don't go over the top. The planets warn you need to stay out of trouble today.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Tell everyone what they want to hear today, even if you don't believe a word of it and even if you don't believe they believe it either. You are not in the mood for arguments.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You must question everything you hear today, because the planets warn that some of the things you will be told are designed to mislead you rather than inform you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Make your own value judgments today. What others say may be interesting but it is essential that you follow your instincts rather than follow the herd.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Quite likely you will say or do something silly today but it's no big deal. In fact it will most likely endear you to people who previously thought of you as a bit too perfect and self-controlled. Seems you're human after all!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will find yourself in just the right place at just the right time to do something worthwhile today. Make the most of it — it won't always be this easy.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun in your fellow Earth sign of Taurus at this time of year makes all things possible, for you at least, so don't limit yourself to petty ambitions. Go for gold.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Friends may know you need assistance but they won't lift a finger to help you unless you ask them to. That may annoy you a bit but most likely it's your own fault. They've been told off before for interfering in your affairs

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will be confronted with a very tough challenge today and you will deal with it with ease. That might surprise those people who have only ever seen the softer side of your nature but there is a core of steel running through the Pisces personality.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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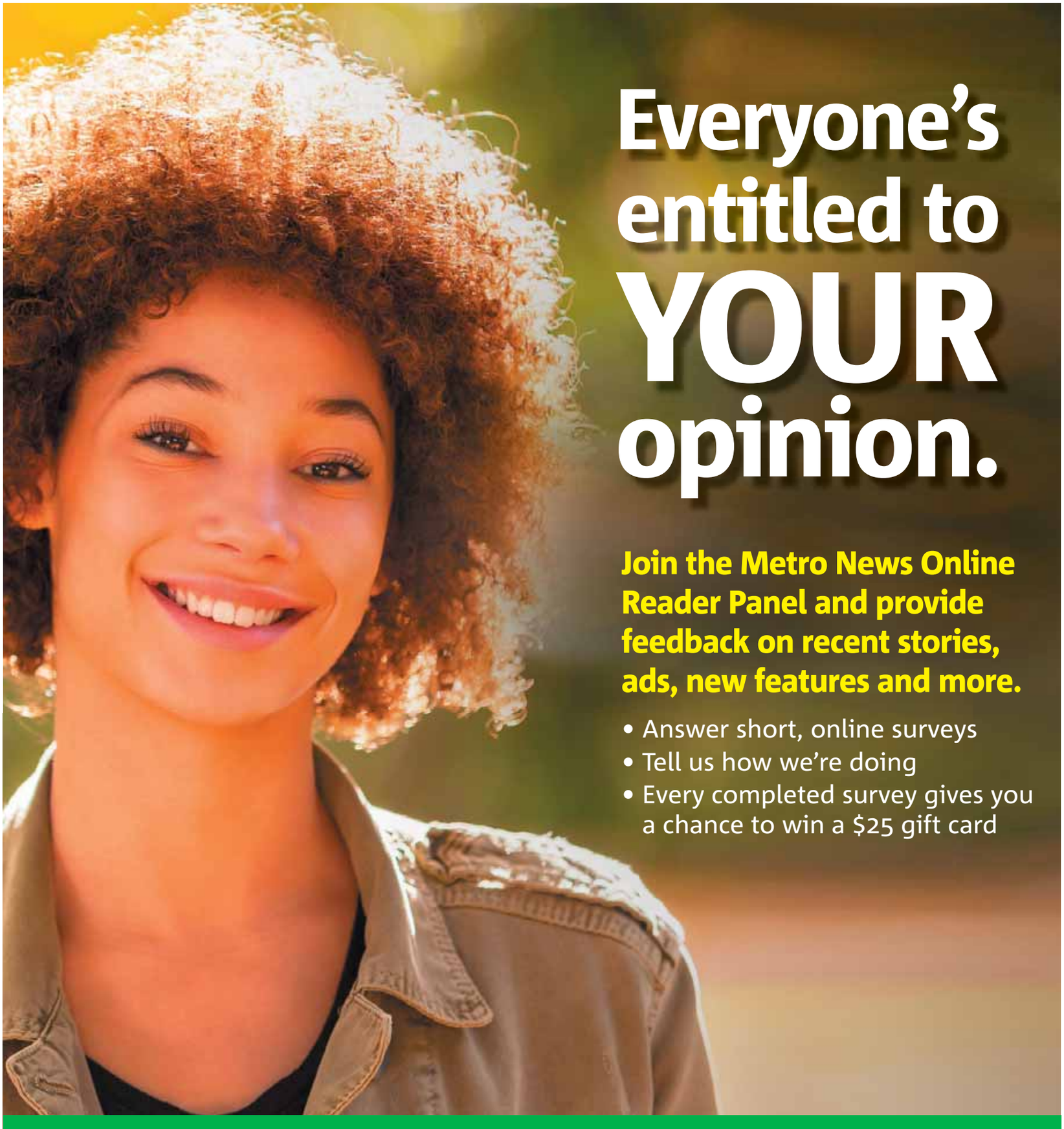
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